THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Speedy exit check for foreign air-passengers

729. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to work out a mechanism that will allow fast clearance to foreign passengers at the immigration counter, thus cutting the waiting time from 90 minutes to barely 10 minutes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is the action plan of Government to guard against anything adverse against an India-bound foreign national during this hasty clearance process?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

X-ray machines for security at airport

730. SHRI MAHMOOD A. MADANI:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has standard security systems at different airports in the country particularly in metros; and

(b) whether it is the usual practice to keep stand by X-ray machines in the security hold area at all the airports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir. The Bureau of Civil Aviation Security, as the regulator of Aviation Security, prescribes the norms and technical specifications for various security systems at the airports.

(b) It is desirable to keep a standby X-ray machine at the airport for usage in emergency.

International Airport at Visakhapatnam

731. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has identified a site to construct the new International Airport at Visakhapatnam;

(b) if so, by when the construction of this new International Airport is likely to be started;

(c) whether his Ministry is considering to run the International Services from the existing Visakhapatnam Airport which is equipped with all Night Landing Facilities; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) At the request of Government of Andhra Pradesh (GoAP), a Technical

Team of Airports Authority of India (AAI) carried out feasibility study of various sites for proposed new Greenfield Airport at Visakhapatnam and submitted report to GoAP indicating feasibility in respect of two sites. The GoAP has been advised to take further clearances and approval of Government of India for construction of new Greenfield Airport.

(c) and (d) Government have offered unlimited access to 18 tourist destinations in the country to the designations in the country to the designated airlines of ASEAN and SAARC countries, which includes Visakhapatnam also. Therefore, the designated airlines of these countries are free to operate as many services as they wish. However, actual operation by any airline is always guided by its own commercial considerations.

Flight of A-380 in India

732. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Air India is in discussion with Airbus to purchase A-380, aircraft for commercial operations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Hyderabad airport is A-380 compatible; and

(d) whether in the event of taking a decision to purchase A-380, the airports that the Airport Authority of India (AAI) is planning to upgrade to facilitate the landing of A-380?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) It is planned that the new Hyderabad International Airport at Shamshabad will be A-380 compatible.

(d) while, Airports Authority of India has plans to upgrade Chennai and Kolkata Airports, Delhi and Mumbai Airports are being upgraded by Joint Venture Companies for A-380 compatibility.

Development of small airports to promote tourism

†733. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any plan to construct small airports in view of the increasing number of domestic and foreign tourists so that small aeroplanes could land at small airports in places popular among tourists; and

(b) if not, whether Government proposes to formulate such a plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) A new policy for Greenfield airports is underway which is aimed to provide required impetus to, *inter-alia,* construction of several airports in smaller cities/towns.

It is also proposed to develop the unused airstrips, which are large in number, for commercial utilization. In this endeavour private sector would also be involved.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.